

(c) Only Fellows enrolled in Master's programs of study may be supported under a Master's fellowship grant. Only Fellows enrolled in doctoral programs of study may be supported under a doctoral fellowship grant.

§ 3402.7 Fellowship activities.

A Fellow must be enrolled as a full-time graduate student, as defined by the institution, at all times during the tenure of the fellowship in the national need area and at the degree level supported by the grant. This includes the time used for special international study or thesis/dissertation research if the international travel is funded through a special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowance under this grant program. However, the normal requirement of formal registration during part of this tenure may be waived if permitted by the policy of the fellowship institution, provided that the fellow is making satisfactory progress toward degree completion and remains engaged in appropriate full-time fellowship activities such as thesis/dissertation research. Fellows in academic institutions are not entitled to vacations as such. They are entitled to the short normal student holidays observed by the institution. The time between academic semesters or quarters is to be utilized as an active part of the grant period. During the period of support, a Fellow may not accept employment by the institution or any other agency. However, a grant supporting research costs of the Fellow is acceptable, exclusive of salary or wages and fringe benefits for the Fellow.

§ 3402.8 Financial provisions.

The basis fellowship stipend, cost-of-education institutional allowance, and special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowance that may be paid from grant funds will be determined by HEP contingent upon appropriations. The amount of the stipend, cost-of-education institution allowance, and special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowance will be cited in the program announcement in the FEDERAL REGISTER. An institution may elect to apply the cost-of-education institu-

tional allowance to a Fellow's tuition and fees; however, such is not required. The allowance also may be used by an institution to defray other program expenses (e.g., recruitment, travel, publications, or salaries of project personnel). Tuition and fees are the responsibility of the Fellow unless an institution elects to use its cost-of-education institutional allowance for this purpose or elects to pay such costs out of other non-USDA monies. No dependency allowances are provided for Fellows. Stipend payments and special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowances will be made to Fellows by the institution, according to standard institutional procedures for fellowships and assistantships.

Subpart C—Preparation of a Proposal

§ 3402.9 Application package.

An application package will be made available to any potential grant applicant upon request. This package will include all necessary forms and instructions to apply for a grant under this program. The package also includes the regulatory provisions applicable to the program.

§ 3402.10 Proposal cover page.

The Proposal Cover Page, Form CSRS 701, must be completed in its entirety including all authorizing signatures. One copy of each grant application must contain the original pen-and-ink signature of:

- (a) The Project Director(s);
- (b) The Authorized Certifying Representative for the college or equivalent administrative unit; and
- (c) The Authorized Certifying Representative for the institution.

§ 3402.11 National need summary.

Using the National Need Summary, Form CSRS-702, applicants must summarize the proposed graduate program of study and the academic and research strengths of the institution in the national need area for which funding is requested. To the extent possible, applicants should emphasize the uniqueness of the proposed graduate program

of study. The summary should not include any reference to the specific number of fellowships requested. The information on the summary page will be used in assigning the most appropriate panelists to review a proposal. If a proposal is supported, this page may be used in program publications.

§ 3402.12 National need narrative.

A narrative for the national need area should be written in five sections limited to no more than 20 pages, and preceded by a table of contents. The table of contents is not considered part of the 20-page limitation. The narrative should be typed on one side of the page only, using a font no smaller than 12 point, and double-spaced. The five sections to be included in the narrative are as follows:

Sec. 1. In this section, applicants should establish clearly that the proposed program of study and research will result in the development of outstanding expertise in the national need area for which funding is requested and will do so in a reasonable period of time. Applicants should present a detailed description of the proposed graduate program of study and research. This section of the narrative should contain, but need not be limited to, the following components:

(a) The plan should specifically address the course work which Fellows will be required to take rather than the overall spectrum of departmental offerings. Identify courses, summarize content, and discuss sequencing. Explain how course work will relate to Fellows' research.

(b) Identify and describe areas of research that Fellows will be encouraged to engage in via a thesis or dissertation.

(c) Discuss graduate program examination requirements, such as a proficiency or qualifying examination, a comprehensive examination, and an oral examination.

(d) Include a projected timetable for completing the proposed graduate program of study and research.

(e) If admission to a proposed doctoral program does not require a Master's degree, discuss how institutional procedures allow for the bypass of a Master's degree.

Sec. 2. In this section, applicants should highlight thoroughly any special features of the graduate program such as the extent to which it will involve an inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, or cross-disciplinary approach resulting in the development of expertise transcending a single discipline. Applicants should also discuss any other special features such as development of an unusual collateral specialization in a related dis-

cipline, experiential learning opportunities such as practicums or internships, unique mentoring programs, seminars, or a multi-university collaborative approach.

Sec. 3. In this section, applicants should substantiate clearly the institution's position that it presently provides a major, productive, and recognized program of graduate study and research at the level(s) of study in the area of national need in which selected Fellows would be engaged. Applicants should include evidence of the quality of existing academic attributes and resources of the institution such as teaching and research faculty, instructional and research instrumentation and facilities, library resources, computing resources, and other such indicators of academic quality. Also, applicants should discuss the extent to which graduate students have access to such institutional resources.

Sec. 4. In this section, applicants should document thoroughly the institution's plans and procedures for managing fellowship appointments. Applicants should explain in-depth the plan for recruiting academically outstanding Fellows and procedures for selecting Fellows of superior quality who appear to be highly motivated to prepare for and pursue a career as a food or agricultural scientist or professional. In addition, applicants should cite specific plans for advising and guiding Fellows through a program of study, as well as any special programs or activities that will be offered to enrich the Fellows' graduate study. Particular attention should be given to the plans and procedures for recruiting and retaining members of underrepresented groups.

Sec. 5. In this section, applicants should include important supplementary summary data for the institution relevant to the national need area for which funding is requested. Examples of appropriate data are indices of student quality, enrollments and degrees awarded for recent years, placement of graduates, facilities, faculty research support, and publications of previous graduate students. To the extent possible, applicants should present the supplementary summary data in tabular form.

§ 3402.13 Budget.

Applicants must prepare the Proposal Budget, Form CSRS-703, identifying all costs associated with the proposal. Instructions for completing the "Proposal Budget" are provided on the form. Pagination for the budget page should be continuous following the national need narrative and so indicated in the table of contents.